

National Health Interview Survey

About NCHS

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides a broad perspective to help us understand the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

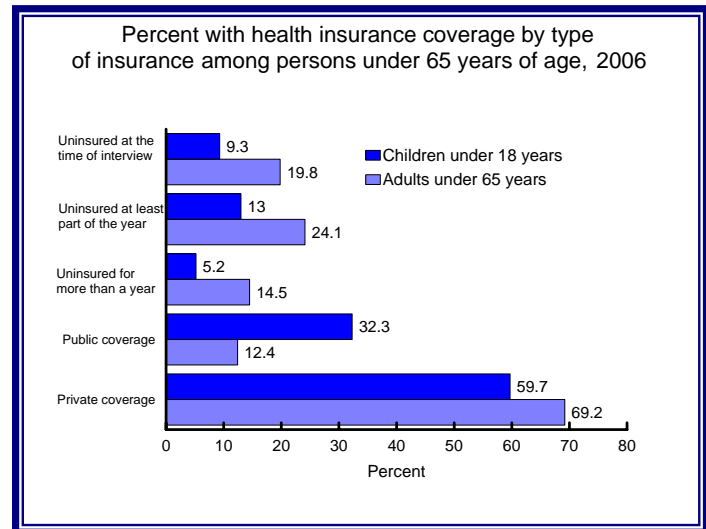
National Health Interview Survey

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) provides information annually on the health status of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population through confidential interviews conducted in households. The NHIS is the nation's largest household health survey, providing data for analysis of broad health trends, as well as the ability to characterize persons with various health problems, determine barriers to care, and compare health status, health related behaviors, and risk factors across racial and ethnic populations.

Health topics addressed:

- Health Status and Difficulties
- Insurance Coverage
- Access to Care
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Use of Health Services
- Immunizations
- Health Behaviors
- Injury
- Ability to Perform Daily Activities
- Child and Adult Asthma
- Child and Adult Diabetes
- Child and Adult Mental Health

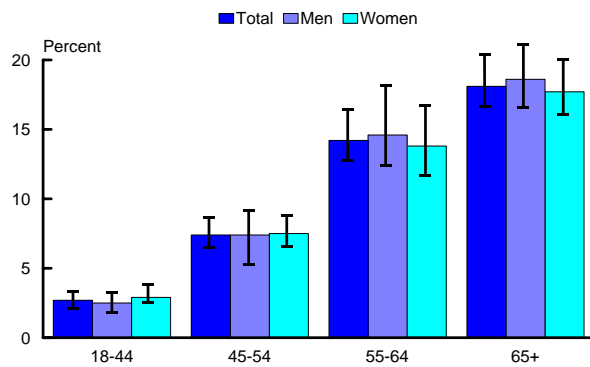
Examples of NHIS Data



Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2006

- In 2006, the percentage of **uninsured persons at the time of interview** was 19.8 percent for persons aged 18-64 years and 9.3 percent for children under age 18.
- A total of 54.5 million persons (18.6 percent) of all ages were **uninsured for at least part of the year** prior to interview. Data also reveal that 30.6 million persons of all ages (10.5 percent) had been **uninsured for more than a year at the time of interview**.
- In 2006, almost 58 percent of currently unemployed adults and nearly 23 percent of employed adults aged 18-64 years had been **uninsured for at least part of the past year**, and more than 33 percent of currently unemployed adults and nearly 14 percent of employed adults had been **uninsured for more than a year**.

Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among adults 18+*

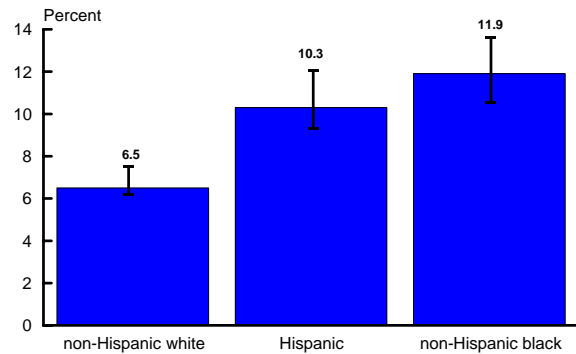


Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2006

*Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes is based on self-report of physician diagnosis.

- For both sexes combined, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes increased with age, with the highest rates among adults 65 years of age and older.

Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among adults 18+ by race/ethnicity*



Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2006

*Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes is based on self-report of physician diagnosis.

- The prevalence of diagnosed diabetes was highest among non-Hispanic blacks, and lowest among non-Hispanic whites.

Other findings for 2006:

- The percent of **persons without health insurance** at the time of the interview was highest for Hispanics at 32.1 percent, and lowest for non-Hispanic whites at 10.4 percent.
- The percent of persons of all ages with a **usual place to go for medical care** was highest for non-Hispanic whites at 88.8 percent and lowest for Hispanics at 74.6 percent.
- The prevalence of **current smoking among U.S. adults** age 18+ was highest for non-Hispanic whites at 22.5 percent, and lowest for Hispanics at 14.5 percent.
- The prevalence of self-reported **obesity** among adults aged 20+ increased from 19.4 percent in 1997 to 26.4 percent.

Challenges and Future Opportunities

To improve the usefulness and accessibility of NHIS data by continuous improvements in data quality, relevance, reporting, and timeliness. Major projects include enhanced Web access for both current and historic NHIS data.

For further information about NCHS and its programs, visit us at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>, or call the Office of Planning, Budget and Legislation at 301-458-4100.

For further information on NHIS, visit their website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhis.htm>.